

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 25, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Mary Walsh arrived at 7:04 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum (15-minute limit) – None

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier pointed out that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2009 indicate that clarification would come to tonight's meeting regarding EWG Sports for Kids representative Rob Corriea's

comments, [on July 21, 2009] regarding “Northland Steel Buildings’ bid of \$180,000 for a steel building.” Director of Administration Robert Ross said that the handwritten notes of July 21, 2009 correspond with what was recorded in the official meeting minutes of that same date. Member Bollengier expressed that somewhere in the [July 21, 2009] official minutes it should state the amount is \$40,000 and not \$180,000. Chair DeSack said that she is satisfied that the motion recorded in the July 21, 2009 meeting minutes to allocate \$40,000 for the building reflects the amount the District is supposed to pay.

Member Walsh arrived at this time, (7:04 p.m.).

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of August 11, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Bevin Winner as 1.0 FTE High School Librarian, Step 5, Masters, Salary \$50,243: effective August 31, 2009

b. Sharon LaFrenaye as 1.0 FTE Art Teacher at Metcalf School, Step 6, Masters, Salary \$53,926; effective August 31, 2009

2. Leaves of Absence

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3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

- a. Letter of Resignation from Leslie Round from her position as 1.0 FTE District-wide ELL teacher – grades K – 12 (1-year LOA position), effective August 24, 2009**

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Please see attached TA List**
- b. Please see attached Council - 94 List**

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$364,656.86; Accruals in the amount of \$3,687.00

D. Home School Approvals

- 1. GREENE – Kyle, Rachel, Stephanie, Jaclyn**
- 2. SPECIALE – Nikki, Mia**
- 3. JODOIN – Jakob, Libby**

End Consent Agenda

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to move agenda item, VI. D. Athletic Field Discussion up on the agenda. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Chair DeSack said that if the committee agrees, the committee will continue with the agenda until EWG Sports 4 Kids representatives

arrive.

Members did not comment regarding Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) Policy 6203: Family, Maternity, Parental and Medical Leave Policy; (2) Bacon & Company CPA Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Budget Projection 2008 – 2009 – Director of Administration Robert Ross advised members that the 2008-2009 Budget Projection will be presented at the first regular meeting in September 2009.

Budget Discussion/Charter Discussion/Workshop – Clerk Coutcher told the committee that the Town Finance Review Committee, (TFRC) held its first meeting. Member Rafanelli is the Chairperson for that committee. Chair DeSack told members that a TFRC meeting was called approximately two weeks ago. Clerk Coutcher is Vice Chairperson and Member Bollengier is the Clerk. Chair DeSack requested to add all TFRC meeting dates to the Important Dates and Meetings section of the School Committees' agendas.

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Chair DeSack said that if it pleases the committee she will now go to

agenda item, Athletic Field Discussion – Superintendent Geismar said that he met with Sharon Pelser, Rob Corriea, Steve McGrane, Bob Ross, and Brian Butler recently to address concerns about the length of the football field and how to proceed to ensure a safe environment.

A lengthy, comprehensive dialogue relating to concerns with the athletic field and safety issues, and overall athletic field factors followed, with remarks and views made by School Committee members, the Athletic Director, the soccer coach, West Greenwich Town Council member/parent Mark Tourgee, Administrators, and Sports 4 Kids representatives. Sports 4 Kids representative Rob Corriea said that the athletic field was built and designed well. According to the engineers, it is a typical design. Some compromises were necessary to design a complex that meets the needs and is within regulations for all three sports activities - football, soccer, and track. Chair DeSack emphasized that EWG Sports 4 Kids has worked tremendously hard to bring this beautiful field to the school community and said she does not want the concerns that have been brought forward by community members to minimize the efforts of EWG Sports 4 Kids. She told Mr. Corriea and Mrs. Pelser that the concerns that have been brought forward were not intended to criticize EWG Sports 4 Kids. Chair DeSack emphasized the importance of ensuring that the EWG maintenance staff is properly trained in the areas of equipment and field care and maintenance. The discussion turned to whether or not there is a need to hire a surveyor. In the end, Member Bollengier gave his assurance that he and soccer coach Kevin Fraser can install a very good soccer field

without employing a surveyor. Mr. Corriea emphasized that the Paige Design Group has indicated that it will not take responsibility or fault if the length of the soccer field exceeds 345 feet because they did not design it that way. Superintendent Geismar clarified that it is the committees' agreement that a surveyor will not be called upon. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Chair DeSack said that ultimately Athletic Director McGrane will have the final oversee of the field to certify its readiness for the first game on September 1. Sharon Pelser encouraged all to attend and show support to the girls' soccer team on September 1. It will be the first time any athletes will use the new field. Mrs. Pelser advised that on October 3, 2009 – Homecoming Day, her group will rededicate the field at approximately 2:30 p.m. In closing, Chair DeSack requested Mr. McGrane to walk the field complex with Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley to get all unfinished ends done this week, prior to the September 1 soccer game. She also requested that if the sprinkler company is in district on Friday morning, that training be provided to members of the EWG maintenance crew at that time.

New Business –K – 6 Reading Curriculum – Superintendent Geismar referenced the

K – 6 Reading Curriculum document enclosed in members' packets and said that retired Curriculum Director Nancy Daley provided the document to him. Dr. Geismar said that Ms. Daley worked hard all year on the document and the curriculum is aligned with RI GLEs. The first step is to obtain School Committee approval and then it will

be given to the teachers to work with and to tweak. Vice Chair Cicero asked if literacy teachers were involved in the process. Superintendent Geismar said that the document was mostly the

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work of Ms. Daley. Vice Chair Cicero expressed her opinion that literacy teachers should have been involved and said that it is disappointing to her that they were not. Chair DeSack agreed and said that the curriculum needs to go to the literacy teachers first.

Dr. Geismar said that he will coordinate that request and will bring back feedback from the teachers to the committee probably at the end of October. Principal Melissa Marino pointed out that with due respect, Ms. Daley was a reading teacher. Reading Recovery teacher Deb Blake explained that in years past an ELA group met on a monthly basis. She suggested that since the district is without a curriculum director and if funding is available, to restore the monthly meetings to review and align the curriculum since much has changed over the years. Superintendent Geismar said that one thing he wants to do is form curriculum councils to work together in all core areas, also to look at what others are doing and to work off that.

Reading Support at Wawaloam School - Superintendent Geismar, Principal Marino, and Reading Recovery teacher Deb Blake informed the School Committee that the .5 reading recovery teacher vacancy

at Wawaloam School will be replaced with a .5 reading specialist. This model will provide needed support in the classroom for teachers and students to conduct their PLP group instruction. This new design allows the district to service all students.

H1N1 Update – Superintendent Geismar informed members that there is a statewide H1N1 meeting tomorrow at CCRI. At that meeting, the latest information and protocols regarding H1N1 will be given.

Approve Contracting with SORICO for Curriculum Support Services – Superintendent Geismar said that he wishes to postpone this item indefinitely at this time. Additional time is needed to review the proposal and to check the result of last year's budget. In response to Chair DeSack's comment that the committee approved the .5 Special Education Assistant Director position, Dr. Geismar advised that that position is also on hold until the result of the budget is known. Chair DeSack suggested if the budget is down, not to fill the position and to ask the School Committee to rethink the part-time assistant special education director position. In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Chair DeSack requested that Grant Writer Update be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Kindergarten Enrollment – None

Sr. Project Follow-up – Principal Brian Butler informed members that he attended his first SIT meeting on August 17. He extended an

invitation to at least two School Committee members to serve on the Review Board or Advisory Board but not both. He said that the Steering Committee meets the third Thursday of each month for 1:50 p.m. to

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2:20 p.m. Member Zuercher expressed her opinion that the meeting time is very exclusionary to individuals who work. Member Rafanelli, a member of the Steering

Committee said that the meeting time is an issue for him. Chair DeSack pointed out that the meeting time was established by teachers and it will not work for community members. She suggested to Principal Butler that meetings should take place first thing in the morning or later in the evening. Chair DeSack reminded members that Member Rafanelli and Vice Chair Cicero were appointed to the Steering Committee. Tonight the committee needs to vote to appoint one School Committee member to the Sr. Project Advisory Board. Member Bollengier said that although he had indicated at the last meeting that he is interested in serving on the Advisory Board, he would defer if there were others who are interested. Member Zuercher said that she is interested if the meeting time is in the evening. Principal Butler said that there is more flexibility since that board meets on an as needed basis.

Member Bollengier made a motion that the committee approves the appointment of Valerie Zuercher to the Advisory Board of the Senior Project organization chart. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Member Rafanelli said that he will remain on the Steering Committee until clarification regarding meeting times is provided.

Capital Project Update – Chair DeSack indicated that since the committee toured district facilities just prior to this evening's meeting, that this agenda item update has been provided.

Reports/Comments –

Important Dates and Meetings Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, August 26, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 26, 2009-Wawaloam Back to School Picnic (4-6pm), Rain Date – August 28, 2009; Friday, August 28, 2009-New Staff Training; Monday, August 31, 2009-Teacher Orientation; Monday, August 31, 2009-Jr. High Open House (4-7pm); Tuesday, September 1, 2009-1st Day of Schools All Students

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5

Adjournment – Vice Chair made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK